FILM. KATIE HOLMES TALKS 'DAWSON'

THE ACTRESS IS BACK ON FILM IN "THE GIVER." PAGE 17

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Monday, August 11, 2014 www.metro.us | t: MetroNewYork | f: MetroNewYork

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Five ways you can be a better global worker

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TAKING UP A COLLECTION

Community. New York's collectors' culture is a rich tapestry of people with quirky appetites — from those who taxidermy animals to others who roam Red Hook's shore in search of forgotten pieces of the city's history. PAGE 02

Amber Maykut, 33, has collected hundreds of taxidermed animals and pinned butterflies. She also teaches private lessons on taxidermy. / MILES DIXON, METRO

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1 NEWS

Bronx

Toddler dies after window fall

A Bronx family is grieving after a toddler fell from the apartment window Sunday morning. Police said Nayvem Santos, 2, was found unresponsive at 4:21 a.m. on top of a second-floor landing of the apartment building on Gerard Avenue. Family members called for help from their seventh-floor apartment in the Grand Concourse section of the Bronx after the child fell out of the window. Authorities said the investigation was ongoing, but confirmed that Nayvem fell five stories.

Top 3

What's trending online at Metro.us

1 **'VIDEO: Rex Ryan plays joke on reporters, asks them questions instead'**

2 **'VIDEO: Black bear walks around New Jersey neighborhood on hind legs'**

3 **'VIDEO: Woman offers aggressive cat for free'**

From clockwise: Amber Maykut, Mark Splatter, Jason and Felix McLean, and Connor Guadet are some of the collectors who call NYC home. / MILES DIXON, BESS ADLER, SAMAR KHURSHID, METRO

Delving into the strange world of local collectors

Brooklyn. These New Yorkers find joy in their collections.

In a gallery at the Brooklyn Historical Society, people recently milled around tables littered with oddities: dissected worms, Pez dispensers, political buttons and bicycle seats.

These were a few items displayed at a City Reliquary museum's collectors' night. City Reliquary hosts rotating exhibits of items by New Yorkers.

"It's a chance for a collector to not be hoarder," said Bill Scanga, president of City Reliquary.

Metro took a look at four of the collectors.

Visit **Metro.us** to see additional photos from the profiled collectors.

SAMAR KHURSHID
@MetroNewYork
letters@metro.us

History buff

Connor Guadet

Connor Guadet, 32, has always been fascinated by history, so much so that he pivoted to it from advertising. In 2009, he started collecting what he calls, "historic garbage of Red Hook."

Poking around the waterfront and through abandoned shipyards, he found objects that he considers valuable.

"It's garbage to those who threw it out or lost it," he said. "For me, it's history."

From broken clay pipes to a World War I Naval first aid kit, Guadet has added dozens of pieces to his collection. His oldest find is a pipe stem that dates to 1650. Inspired by the discovery, Guadet went back to school in 2012, getting a degree in public history.

Taxidermist

Amber Maykut

New Jersey native Amber Maykut, 33, shares her Williamsburg apartment with her husband Jeb, cat Salem, dog Charlie and more than 100 taxidermied creatures.

Maykut has been a collector since high school, starting with butterflies before moving to mice and larger animals. She hunts for pieces at flea markets and creates her own, which she sells on Etsy under the banner of Hoardaculture.

"It's bordering on hoarding," said Maykut. "So I sell stuff to reduce my collection to a manageable size. I only want my greatest hits."

Among her pieces are white mice dressed up in playful outfits, including a chef and a groomsman.

Embalming

Mark Splatter

A year and a half ago, Mark Splatter, 36, was cataloguing goods in the Morbid Anatomy museum when he came across a specimen filled with house lizards. "I became fascinated with nature," he said, "and the floodgates opened." The lizards became the first in a collection of embalmed and preserved specimens that now includes snakes, a stingray, sea horses, gophers and chicken feet.

Although Splatter is a graphic designer and DJ, his obsession for animal anatomy is now his focus. He dissects animals and stores them in jars of varying size. He decorates the more popular ones, like sea horses, and sells them.

"I found a niche for a new form of expression for myself," he said.

Candy curators

Jason, Felix and Henry McLean

A collection that began with a Yoda Pez dispenser in 2007 grew to more than 1,000 candy holders that the McLeans displayed in a basement museum in Canada.

Freelance artist Jason McLean and his two sons, Felix, 10, and Henry, 6, ran the Pez Museum until they moved to New York two months ago.

"It cuts into my art practice," said McLean, "but sometimes I think it might actually do better than my art."

Moving to the city meant packing away the prized Pez, but McLean is looking for a permanent space for the collection, which he said is growing more every day.

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Manhattan. Calls for cop body cams surge after Garner death

Less than a month after police were caught on bystander camera arresting a Staten Island man who died in custody, politicians are reigniting a push for the NYPD to equip officers with body cameras.

On Monday, Public Advocate Letitia James will release a report in support of putting cameras on NYPD officers.

The call comes a year after Judge Shira Scheindlin suggested in her decision against NYPD's use of stop-and-frisk that the department create a body camera pilot program.

Days after Garner's death, James joined members of the City Council's Black, Latino and Asian caucus and argued that "all street encounters should be [taped] to avoid this from happening again."

Mayor Bill de Blasio has said the city is open to adopting body cameras but that "they are complicated."

Even the leader of the city's largest police union, who opposed body cameras after last year's court order, has warmed to the idea, given the uptick of eyewitness arrest videos.

"That's an option that we need to talk about," Patrick Lynch, president of the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, said last week. CHESTER JESUS SORIA

Largest force

Only a handful of cities have implemented body cameras for police, which can cost $1,000. The NYPD and its 34,500 officers would be the largest force to undertake such a program.

- In July, Comptroller Scott Stringer's office estimated the city spent $137.2 million in NYPD-related settlements.

Baby colobus is ready for its close-up

A baby Angolan colobus monkey was born last month at the Bronx Zoo. The baby boy now joins four other colobus monkeys at the zoo, which is run by the Wildlife Conservation Society. He is at the zoo with his parents and a young female colobus monkey. The baby, who has not yet been named, was born in the Congo Gorilla Forest at the Bronx Zoo. The monkeys are native to northern Angola and parts of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

JULIE LARSEN MAHER, WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Times Square

Cops target Elmo, Spidey

The New York City Police Department launched an awareness campaign on Saturday amid the growing number of incidents between costumed characters earning tips in Times Square and police.

Along with the Times Square Alliance, uniformed officers spent the day handing out fliers to passersby in the tourist destination.

"PHOTOS WITH COSTUMED CHARACTERS ARE FREE. TIPPING IS OPTIONAL," the flier reads in large bold letters.

In a statement, the department said the campaign also targets the characters to remind them that they cannot legally charge for photos. CHESTER JESUS SORIA

Costumed characters
BESS ADLER, METRO

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2. Trains run via the F between 34 St-Herald Sq and Jay St-MetroTech.

E trains are rerouted via the M and F in Manhattan as follows:

1. Trains run via the M in both directions between 5 Av/53 St and 34 St-Herald Sq.
2. Trains run via the F in both directions between 34 St-Herald Sq and the 2 Av F station, the last stop.
   No trains between World Trade Center and 7 Av.

TRAVEL ALTERNATIVES

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- Take 1 2 for service to/from 34 St-Penn Station and Times Sq/42 St-Port Authority Bus Terminal.

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Staten Island

Sharpton march won't walk over Verrazano

A march to protest the death of Eric Garner, who reportedly died from a chokehold, will go ahead later this month on Staten Island, organizers said, although plans to walk over the Verrazano Bridge have been scrapped.

Reverend Al Sharpton, the civil rights activist behind the march, said on Saturday that protesters would drive in a caravan of cars and buses from Brooklyn to the point where Eric Garner, 43, died last month while being arrested by police. REUTERS

Queens

Two teens arrested after 12-year-old girl is shot

A 12-year-old girl is recovering after she was shot in her leg while at a Queens basketball court on Saturday.

Police said they arrested two teens in connection to the gunshot that sent the girl to the hospital at 4:42 p.m. during a basketball tournament in the Rockaways. CHESTER JESUS SORIA

The gun / NYPD

For exclusive photos, visit Metro.us/blogs.

Jeremiah's Vanishing New York

JEREMIAH MOSS

www.vanishingnewyork.blogspot.com

Jeremiah Moss is the award-winning author of the blog Jeremiah's Vanishing New York. His writing on the city has appeared in many publications, including The New York Times, and online at The New Yorker.

A cut and shave that connects the past to the present

On a weekday morning, the Fiumefreddo brothers' Park Slope Barber shop is quiet and easy. Ella Fitzgerald sings from the speakers, followed by Sarah Vaughan. "Hey," says the barber, "this one could give Ella a run for her money. Her voice has a lot of, what do you call 'em? Octabels. Is that the word?" Octaves, decibels, the word doesn't matter. What matters is the sound — and the feeling. The place provides calm and connectedness, of being rooted through time, past to present.

At this time of day, in high summer, with the door open to Seventh Avenue, the shop is a gentle country of old men. Their silver heads, with fringes of hair, are lovingly palmed and petted by the barber before his scissors start.

"How short do you want it today?"

"Same as always."

"Sarah Vaughan. What a voice."

"I remember when she died," says the customer, holding still.

The walls of the shop are covered with black-and-white posters of mid-century masculinity — John Wayne, Humphrey Bogart, James Dean. Everything is wood, marble and chrome. How old is the place? "A hundred years and change," says the barber. The shop's awning says it's been here since 1904. The window disagrees, claiming 1906. But, as the barber once told me, "The guy who did the awning got it wrong" and "The window painter got it wrong, too." The real start was 1903.

The city's old barbers are disappearing. Their shops are vanishing. Nothing is certain in today's New York but death and rising rents. Further up Seventh Avenue, the departed Mr. Riccardelli's Clover Barbershop has just been readied for its transformation into a wine store. Across the river in SoHo, the beloved Hair Box has shuttered. After more than a century of that space hosting a barber, it will now serve frozen yogurt. Thankfully, the Fiumefreddos are going strong.

"I'll never forget you," the Park Slope barber sings along to the music as he trims another customer. "I'll never forget you."

JEREMIAH MOSS

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Middle East. Israel, Palestinians agree to new Gaza truce

Israel and the Palestinians agreed on Sunday to an Egyptian proposal for a new 72-hour ceasefire in Gaza, officials from the warring sides said.

"Israel has accepted Egypt's proposal," a senior Israeli government official said, adding that negotiators would return to Cairo on Monday to resume indirect talks with the Palestinians if the truce held.

The Israeli team had flown home on Friday before a previous three-day truce expired and hostilities broke out again.

A Hamas official said Palestinian factions had accepted Egypt's call and that the Cairo talks would continue.

In a statement, Egypt's Foreign Ministry urged "both sides to exploit this truce to resume indirect negotiations immediately and work toward a comprehensive and lasting ceasefire agreement."

Earlier, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said, "Israel will not negotiate under fire," and warned of a protracted Israeli military campaign in the Gaza Strip if rocket salvoes continued. **REUTERS**

Palestinian boys walk on the remains of a mosque that was targeted by Israeli air strikes in Nuseirat in central Gaza. / GETTY IMAGES

Stewart pulls out of race after he hits, kills driver

Dirt tracks. Tony Stewart hit a driver who had stepped out of his car in a local race Saturday.

Stewart regularly competes in local dirt races, where he began his career, during the Sprint Cup season. / GETTY IMAGES

NASCAR champion Tony Stewart dropped out of a race on Sunday, hours after fatally running over a driver at a dirt track in New York, casting a shadow over one of the sport's most accomplished and highly paid drivers.

Stewart, 43, faced a wave of criticism on social media when it appeared he planned to compete in the Sprint Cup series at Watkins Glen International, with a team official telling media that he was proceeding with "business as usual."

A sheriff in upstate New York investigating the death of the 20-year-old racer said they had not found any evidence so far of criminal intent in Saturday's incident and that Stewart was cooperating with authorities.

"At this very moment, there are no facts in hand that would substantiate or support a criminal charge or indicate criminal intent on the part of any individual," Ontario County Sheriff Philip Povero told a news conference on Sunday.

Stewart, a three-time NASCAR champion, is one of the few drivers who co-owns his team, Stewart-Hass Racing, a four-car outfit whose drivers include female standout Danica Patrick.

In a local dirt-track race Saturday night, Stewart hit Kevin Ward Jr., who stepped out of his car and onto the track as he seemed to gesture toward Stewart after the NASCAR veteran appeared to clip his car and spin it out of the race, according to videos posted online. **REUTERS**

Earnings

$17.3M

Stewart is NASCAR's fourth-highest paid driver, with an estimated $17.3 million in earnings this year, according to Forbes.

Quoted

"There aren't words to describe the sadness I feel about the accident that took the life of Kevin Ward Jr. ... It's a very emotional time for all involved."

Stewart said in a statement

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Africa: A 'magnet' for

Metro exclusive. Denis Sassou Nguesso, president of the Republic of the Congo, speaks on Africa's

Last week President Barack Obama hosted nearly 50 African heads of state for a three-day U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit, the first such event in the United States.

One of those guests stands out in a crowd. Denis Sassou Nguesso, president of the Republic of the Congo and two-time chairman of the African Union, is also one of the most experienced leaders in the global fight against terrorism.

As one the most respected politicians in the region, he is actively involved in bringing peace to this notoriously unstable region. Two weeks ago, he played a key role in an agreement that ended violence in the Central African Republic, and he is currently facilitating political dialogue between the opposition and President Joseph Kabila in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Leading the country with the second biggest rainforest area in the world, Nguesso is a vigorous advocate for environmental conservation.

But he is not free of controversy; Nguesso was criticized by the Washington for involvement in the constitutional change that would allow him to become president for the third time. Metro asked Nguesso about this controversy, his relationship with U.S. and the situation in his region.

Do you think that Congo is or should be an important partner of America's?
President Obama's initiative to invite the leaders of African countries to a U.S.-Africa Summit, and the enthusiastic response from our side, answers your question. In Congo, we see three areas of cooperation.

1 American assistance in the training of and supply of equipment for our military and security forces to better combat the advances of international terrorism that threatens us. Make no mistake, we Congolese, we Africans, have to be responsible for our own security and, if required, fight for it. I would also add that in the area of regional and pan-African security, America could assist us all by effectively supporting a collective African response to these important challenges.

ON PEACE
"I believe that it is time for Africa to take control of its fate by reacting more decisively and earlier. Africa must take its destiny in its own hands."
Denis Sassou Nguesso, president of the Republic

2 With some of the highest economic growth rates in the world, Africa should be a magnet for American investment and business. Congo is certainly no exception. It forms part of what I would like to call the world's new economic frontier.

The backbone of our modern economy is the oil sector, where Chevron plays an important role. But there are plenty of other opportunities: telecommunications, eco tourism and financial services, to name a few.

Our Atlantic port, Pointe Noir, has all the prerequisites for a major point of transit for the Central African area.

3 The time has come for a massive U.S.-African partnership in the field of education. Young Africans all over the continent yearn to attend American universities, whose reputation [places them] among the world's leading institutions.

China has recently made a number of high-profile investments in Congo. A short time ago, you visited Beijing. Is there room for an American business presence in your country.
Of course there is. We believe strongly in the benefits of American entrepreneurship and the ability of American business in general to help bring about economic development in our country. In Congo, as in Africa in general, there is room for everybody. We welcome American businessmen with open arms.

Many leaders proclaim democratic rule in their countries while human rights are being violated. What is the true state of affairs in Congo?
I will answer this question, but first I think that for most Africans, most Congolese, other problems seem far more important. Among these would be poverty, unemployment, lack of hope and future, a feeling of injustice and exclusion, frustration at inequitable divisions of natural resources, lack of educational opportunities; weakness of institutions of the state, threats of instability, unrest and armed conflict. Congo, like other African countries, is a young nation, thus it lacks the institutions and the strength of old, established states to effectively provide responses to these daunting challenges and problems.

Now to your question. Congo harbors no political or journalistic prisoners. Political parties and the press exercise their rights and freedoms without limitation. We have established a national watchdog for human rights, Observatoire National des Droits de l'Homme, in which all political parties are represented.

There is a debate whether to change the constitution of the country to allow a sitting president to run for a third term in office. Such constitutional change would enable you, subject to an election victory, to stay in office. Is this the "democratic way"?
First I want to point out that in 1992 I was defeated in a presidential election. I accepted this defeat and left the field to the winner. I therefore do not feel that I have to defend my democratic credentials. Now to your question, I believe in the sovereignty of the Congolese people, among whom the debate on this issue is freely taking place — and very publicly, too. If the people finally decide on a referendum on this matter, then who am I or any other politician to question this decision. It is not as if term limits signify a mark of democracy. Angela Merkel has just secured a mandate for a third period in office as chancellor. We all recall Margaret Thatcher's parliamentary victories, which three times secured for her the prime ministership of the United Kingdom.

I would like to add that the question for debate

Republic of Congo President Denis Sassou Nguesso arrives at the North Portico of the White House for a State Dinner during the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit on Aug. 5. /PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

President Denis Sassou Nguesso wants the U.S. to help Central African states combat the war against terrorism, something he has undoubtedly discussed with U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry.

ON EDUCATION
"The time has come for a massive U.S.-African partnership in the field of education. Young Africans all over the continent yearn to attend American universities, whose reputation [places them] among the world's leading institutions." Denis Sassou Nguesso

American business

relationship with the U.S., terrorism, constitutional controversies and environmental conservation.

and public decision today is merely whether a sitting president in Congo would be able to present his candidacy three times instead of two times. The question is not whether I should be shooed in as president. Under the circumstances, I have not even decided on my course of action in this regard.

Through your country's mediation, and intervention, in the Central African Republic, located to the north of the Congo, and your work to establish political concord in the Democratic Republic of Congo, to the south, you have gained a reputation as an effective promoter of African security? How do you view the state of peace and security in Africa — in particular, your region?
The inability of our continent to prevent crisis and reduce the number of bloody conflicts is aggravated by the humiliation of having to call upon the former colonial powers, first of all France, but also Great Britain, to solve them. The lack of logistic and modern military means is not the only cause. However, the most important thing is our own political will. In the past, there has not been enough of it, but now there is. I believe that it is time for Africa to take control of its fate by reacting more decisively, and earlier. Africa must take its destiny in its own hands.

Congo's security, stability and national development is directly threatened from different directions. From the Gulf of Guinea, where piracy at sea has taken on worrying proportions, to north Cameroun, not far from our border, where terrorists belonging to Boko Haram have set up bases. Terrorists are also present in the Central African Republic, where we have deployed forces and where I, myself, act as a mediator in this country's internal strife. To the south, the Democratic Republic of Congo continues to experience much political instability, which over time repeatedly has translated into armed violence.

Congo hosts the second largest rainforest in the world. At the global environment conference "Rio+20" in 2012 you represented Africa, nominated by the African Union. What are your policy recommendations for the preservation of Congo's and Africa's ecology?
The Earth is in danger. Saving it is a battle in which all our states must stand on the front line. And each of our nations must face up to its responsibilities to do this and to do it now. For us, we know what the international community expects from us. First and foremost, it expects Congo, my country, to help save the vast Congo basin, which is the home to one of the largest terrestrial biodiversity conservation zones in the world. To this end, my country puts the sustainable management of forest ecosystems at the heart of its priorities and works tirelessly with a view to bringing about common policy and legislation for the forests of Central Africa. METRO

The Republic of the Congo. Rich with oil and biodiverse wildlife

Central Africa

Central Africa is home to 10 countries. Despite a recent ceasefire in Central African Republic, the region is still far from being stable. The Gulf of Guinea is threatened by piracy, South Sudan is at war with its northern neighbor, Democratic Republic of Congo faces civil war and Cameron and Chad tackle terrorism.

The Republic of the Congo, not to be confused with the Democratic Republic of the Congo, is sometimes referred to as Congo-Brazzaville. Though the nation is rich with oil, about 70 percent of its roughly 4.6 million people live in poverty. The country is the size of Montana and is known for its rivers, swamps and forest with biodiverse wildlife, as well as its high rates of HIV and AIDS.

After independence from France in 1960, the Republic of the Congo didn't face unrest until 1993 after disputes over parliamentary elections and then again in 1997 when a civil war broke out. A ceasefire treaty has been in place since 2003, but most of the militant rebels are still armed and active in the southern part of the country.

Today, the country is led by President Denis Sassou Nguesso after a controversial election in 2009. METRO

Biography: Denis Sassou Nguesso

Born and raised in a poor family, Nguesso rose through the military ranks and became one of Africa's most experienced leaders.

1943 Born in Edou (which was then part of French Equatorial Africa)

1960 Joined the army, then joined the paratroop regiment

1979 Became president

1986 Was elected Chairman of the African Union

1989 Was re-elected president, announced the end of Marxist policies and adopted capitalism

1992 Was eliminated in the first round of presidential elections

1997 After an outbreak of Civil War, peace was restored and Nguesso was sworn in as president.

1998 Helped begin a three-year transition process to democracy

2002 Was re-elected president after an election free of violence and competition — but two major candidates were prevented from running

2002 A new Constitution went into effect, granting the president a seven-year term instead of five years.

2006 Was elected Chairman of the African Union for the second time

2009 Was re-elected president in an election that the opposition boycotted

Congo by the numbers

61

Percentage of the country covered in lowland rainforest. The Congo Rainforest, which spans over six countries in western Africa, is one of the most biologically diverse regions and is the world's second largest tropical rainforest.

11

Percentage of the area of Congo that is ecologically protected

80

Percentage of government revenues from the oil sector. Petroleum is by far the Republic of the Congo's biggest export, accounting for 90 percent of total exports. The Congo has the fifth largest amount of oil reserves in sub-Saharan Africa.

Islamic State militants kill 500 Yazidis, some buried alive

ISIL. The militant group arrived in northern Iraq in June and has routed Kurds in its latest advance.

A member of the Peshmerga forces takes part in clashes with Islamic State militants in Mosul, Iraq. / GETTY IMAGES

Islamic State militants have killed at least 500 members of Iraq's Yazidi ethnic minority during their offensive in the north, Iraq's human rights minister told Reuters on Sunday.

Mohammed Shia al-Sudani said the Sunni militants had also buried alive some of their victims, including women and children. Some 300 women were kidnapped as slaves, he added.

"We have striking evidence obtained from Yazidis fleeing Sinjar and some who escaped death, and also crime scene images that show indisputably that the gangs of the Islamic States have executed at least 500 Yazidis after seizing Sinjar," Sudani said in a telephone interview, in his first remarks to the media on the issue.

Sinjar is the ancient home of the Yazidis, one of the towns captured by the Sunni militants who view the community as "devil worshippers."

A deadline passed at midday on Sunday for 300 Yazidi families to convert to Islam or face death at the hands of the militants. It was not immediately clear whether the Iraqi minister was talking about the fate of those families or others in the conflict.

"Some of the victims, including women and children were buried alive in scattered mass graves in and around Sinjar," Sudani said.

The minister's comments could pile pressure on the U.S. — which has carried out air strikes on Islamic State targets in response to the group's latest push through the north — to provide more extensive support. **REUTERS**

Quoted

"In some of the images we have obtained there are lines of dead Yazidis who have been shot in the head while the Islamic State fighters cheer and wave their weapons over the corpses. ... This is a vicious atrocity." Sudani

Yazidis

The Yazidis, followers of an ancient religion derived from Zoroastrianism, are spread over northern Iraq and are part of the country's Kurdish minority.

- Many of their villages were destroyed when Saddam Hussein's troops tried to crush the Kurds during his iron-fisted rule. Some were taken away by the executed former leader's intelligence agents.
- Now they are on the defensive again. Tens of thousands of Yazidis fled for their lives after Kurdish fighters abandoned them in the face of Islamic State militants, and are trapped on a mountain near Sinjar at risk of starvation.

Air strikes

US strikes Islamic State targets near Iraqi Kurdish capital Arbil

The United States conducted new air strikes on Islamic State targets near Arbil, the capital of Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdish region, the U.S. military's Central Command said on Sunday.

The strikes, launched by drone aircraft and U.S. fighter jets, were aimed at protecting Kurdish Peshmerga forces as they face off against Islamist militants near Arbil, the site of a U.S. consulate and a U.S.-Iraqi joint military operations center, Central Command said in a statement. **REUTERS**

A US F-16 / GETTY IMAGES

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Back to school. Many former students have attended college, but didn't end up graduating

Tens of millions of adults in the United States are trapped in a vicious cycle: They are saddled with student debt but never earned a college degree. A new study suggests some ways to help cut down on the number of students who end up in what's called "educational limbo."

According to a report by the National Student Clearinghouse, 31 million Americans who enrolled in college over the past two decades dropped out without attaining a degree or certificate. Of those former students, 4 million — or just over 12 percent — have finished at least two years of higher education.

So who are these Americans who have some college and no degree? Most are over the age of 24, have dropped out and re-enrolled from school several times and had been enrolled for more than one semester.

A new study looks at what many college dropouts have in common. / FUSE

Some college, but no degree

The study says many of the American adults who attended college but didn't graduate share similarities. Most of them are:

- Over 24 years old
- Have dropped out and re-enrolled multiple times
- Have enrolled in more than one semester

Doug Shapiro, executive research director of the National Student Clearinghouse, told U.S. News and World Report that the best way to prevent this situation would be to provide students with more flexibility in their financial aid packages. That means extending the time they can use the money they receive for their education and getting outreach programs to encourage students to finish school.

The researchers do strike a hopeful note, writing that, if given the support they need, many of these students can finish their degrees. LIBBY DVIR

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Getting off to

From school to startup. Columbia University's new startup incubator aims to guide the next generation of techies.

Each startup vying for a subsidized workspace has to go through an extensive

When visitors enter the new Columbia University startup lab in Downtown Manhattan, they can practically feel creativity in the air. Young people huddle around their laptops as they work on new startups in fields like law, tech and international development.

Even more incredible, given the bustling environment, is the fact that until about 10 weeks ago the entire area was a loading dock. But through a new partnership between Columbia and the co-working space WeWork, over 71 budding young companies — all run by Columbia alums — have set up shop on the first floor of WeWork's SoHo flagship location, in the heart of what is known as New York's Silicon Alley.

"Entrepreneurship is the application of innovation. So business, college, law, engineering — they're all innovating, they're all studying stuff conceptually, academically," explains Chris McGarry, the director for entrepreneurship in the University Office of Alumni and Development. "There comes a time when a lot of them either want to pursue a more academic career or apply those innovations, so that's what entrepreneurship is about: providing you the resources to make that application."

According to McGarry, Columbia decided to make a foray into the startup world because of the increasing demand for more entrepreneur and business programs at higher education institutions across the country.

Here's how the partnership works: Each startup is chosen by Columbia after an extensive application

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a good start

application process. / ALL PHOTOS PROVIDED BY COLUMBIA STARTUP LAB

process. Founders are required to detail their ideas and future plans. Once chosen, the company receives a heavily subsidized desk at the new startup lab, with the bulk of the costs being paid by the university. "So that gives them some skin in the game and some commitment," says McGarry.

"Starting a business is still very, very difficult, but compared to 10 or 15 years ago, it is much, much easier to launch a business, particularly a tech-based business," McGarry points out. "What we try to do is energize the pockets of entrepreneurship of our campus so that the whole becomes greater than the sum of its parts, and this is a perfect example of that."

"It didn't take long for all of us to recognize that there was a mutually beneficial opportunity to create a place within our community," adds WeWork co-founder Miguel McKelvey.

LAKSHMI GANDHI
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Many entrepreneurs say they like co-working spaces because of the opportunity to bounce ideas of off others.

The workplace

So what is co-working, anyway?

While co-working spaces have gotten quite trendy among entrepreneurial crowds, many cubicle-dwellers still may not be familiar with it. Many entrepreneurs stress the importance of having a community of people to bounce ideas off of.

"This environment is set up in order to help teams bump into each other and discover what they're doing, share what they're doing and then begin to informally collaborate with each other," says McGarry. "I may have solved a problem this week that you're having now, and maybe next week somebody else can help you with a problem that you're having."

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2 CULTURE

THE WORD

Ned Ehrbar takes on the world of gossip.

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1 Beyonce takes to Instagram to quiet divorce rumors

Ever since Elevator Gate — when a security camera captured Beyonce's sister Solange Knowles attacking brother-in-law Jay Z during an elevator ride at NYC's Standard Hotel after the MET Gala in May — rumors have been flying that the couple's marriage is headed for a divorce, despite their joint "On the Run" tour.

Beyonce, who was strangely stoic through the brawl, is finally speaking out.

Last week, the notoriously private singer mentioned the fight in her new remix of "Flawless," featuring Nicki Minaj.

"We escalatin' up in this b— like elevators / Of course sometimes s— go down when it's a billion dollars on an elevator," she sings on the track.

And now the pop star is taking on the divorce rumors via social media.

On Saturday, Bey Instagrammed front and back pictures of herself in a jersey that raised some brows.

While, yes, she looks #flawless and gorgeous, the way Beyonce usually does, all eyes were on the clothing. The front of the jersey featured the number 4, which is symbolic to the couple's relationship. Then, the second shot revealed CARTER written on the back of the jersey, which we can only assume is Beyonce's way of telling the world she's still Mrs. Carter — and proud of it.

TINA CHADHA

Would she be wearing this jersey if her marriage was on the rocks?
INSTAGRAM

2 Snyder defends boring old Aquaman

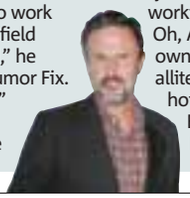
A couple of radio hosts in Detroit were talking trash about Aquaman last week, so "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice" director Zack Snyder decided to call in and defend him — proving once more that Aquaman can't defend himself and has no business in the Justice League. I kid! But seriously, folks, Snyder — who is in Detroit to film the superhero flick that clearly isn't taking up that much of his time — wanted to make it clear that Aquaman would be totally awesome in the movie should he end up in the movie, but Snyder isn't saying he'll be in the movie. (He'll be in the movie.) "I don't want to give anything away about the movie, but Aquaman has some cool abilities," Snyder said. "[He] could cut the flesh of Superman if they came in contact. … It's not to say that he's in the movie or anything like that, but he has the potential to be bad-ass."

Snyder / GETTY IMAGES

Talking point

Arquette off the wagon

One-time sober person David Arquette is not hiding the fact that he's been getting hammered lately, despite having a 4-month-old at home. "I'm not sober. It's very hard [to work in the nightlife field and stay sober]," he recently told Rumor Fix. That "probably" suggests more inquiry into the subject is called for. That working in nightlife bit? Oh, Arquette is part-owner of a couple of alliterative Hollywood hot spots called Bootsy Bellows and Hooray Henrys.



Idris Elba is just begging us to make rod jokes. We won't!
GETTY IMAGES

3 Elba may not (but may!) have a huge package

The Internet went into a frenzy recently when photos of Idris Elba on the set of his new movie seemed to point to a certain astonishing anatomical aspect of the "Luther" and "Thor" star. Sleuths insisted the images prove Elba is both ridiculously well-endowed and a member of John Hamm's anti-underwear club. But apparently it was all too good — or big — to be true, as Elba himself took to Twitter to clear things up. "The good news is I got a s—load of followers," he tweeted. "The bad news is that is a mic wire." But what a lucky mic wire, right?

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Quoted

"I feel really lucky for all the opportunities that I've had. I think it's great to start young, because you learn the business quickly. It's exciting."
Holmes

LET'S GET WEIRD

Katie Holmes is now playing a mom to a teen in "The Giver." / THE WEINSTEIN COMPANY

Interview. Katie Holmes plays a character with no emotions in "The Giver."

Katie Holmes is the first to admit that she found the idea of playing one of the citizens in the sci-fi allegory "The Giver" a bit of a head-scratcher. "It was a really challenging role to play because it's this utopian society, this alternate reality. There's no emotion, there's no pain, there's a great deal of security and safety. But to play that as an actor is interesting because we like to emote," she says. "They don't have any emotions, but I think that they're human after all, so I always believed that the characters were capable of love. But it was interesting. It's interesting to be a part of this movie that poses questions such as that."

Of course, the pedigree of the project — based on Lois Lowry's award-winning, best-selling young adult novel — didn't hurt. "I heard about the project and I heard it was [director] Phil Noyce and Jeff Bridges and Meryl Streep," she says. "I was not familiar with the book, so I read the book along with the script and I thought it was a really powerful story."

While it's been 16 years since Holmes shot to fame barely out of her teens on "Dawson's Creek," the actress has no regrets about finding success so early. "I feel really lucky for all the opportunities that I've had. I think it's great to start young because you learn the business quickly. It's exciting," she says. And she still keeps up with her co-stars, she insists. "I just saw Michelle [Williams] in 'Cabaret.' She's amazing in it," Holmes says of her "Dawson's Creek" co-star's current Broadway gig.

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A real thespian

The world's a stage

Speaking of Broadway, professionally Holmes has been a bit quiet since "Batman Begins" nine years ago — popping up in an odd mix of projects every year or two like "Don't Be Afraid of the Dark," the "Kennedys" television miniseries and Adam Sandler's dubious "Jack and Jill" — but fans closer to New York City know that she's been keeping plenty busy with stage work, recently playing on Broadway in "All My Sons" and "Dead Accounts." And if Holmes has her way, that won't be the end of it.

"It's just different. It's a different experience, but they're both very satisfying professionally," she says, comparing theater and film work. "With doing theater, you're constantly playing with other actors and you have to be really present, and that's really good practice. So then when you go and do a film, you're a little bit sharper — at least for me, that's what I've found it's been helpful for. And just the experience of being in front of that audience and the energy that you get from that is really quite something. ... While the show is going on, you feel like 'Tonight they're responding to this' or 'They're not responding to this,' and that changes the show." As for potential future roles? "I'd like to do 'The Cherry Orchard.' I'd like to do 'A Doll's House,'" she says.

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Box office. Talking reptiles beat a talking raccoon for top spot

The return of the "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" earned $65 million in ticket sales at U.S. and Canadian movie theaters over the weekend, winning a battle with Marvel's outer space hit "Guardians of the Galaxy."

"Ninja Turtles," a reboot of a franchise born in 1980s comic books and popularized in TV cartoons, rang up another $28.7 million in international markets for a global debut of $93.7 million, according to distributor Paramount Pictures, which wasted no time in announcing a sequel.

"Guardians," which ruled the box office universe a week ago with a record opening for August, collected $41.5 million during its second weekend, according to estimates from research firm Rentrak. New tornado-chasing thriller "Into the Storm" landed in the No. 3 slot with $18 million. REUTERS

Top 5 earners

1. 'Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles' $65 million
2. 'Guardians of the Galaxy' $41.5 million
3. 'Into the Storm' $18 million
4. 'The Hundred-Foot Journey' $11.1 million
5. 'Lucy' $9.3 million

Remember these guys? The turtles admittedly used to be prettier.
PARAMOUNT PICTURES

Matt Walsh plays the curmudgeonly head of a weather documentary crew in "Into the Storm."
WARNER BROS. PICTURES

Small screen

Veeping

Walsh shot "Into the Storm" while on break from the hyper-profane government satire "Veep." Like everyone in the cast, his character is a regular target for insults, some of them about Walsh's own physical appearance. But that's fine. "The first day we get the new scripts, the first thing I look for is the awfulest thing they've written about me," he says. "They're always really funny."

Matt Walsh on storm watch

Interview. The UCB funny man gets hit by some bad weather in "Into the Storm."

MATT PRIGGE
@mattprigge
matt.prigge@metro.us

It seems strange for an effects-heavy movie like "Into the Storm" to include an actor like Matt Walsh — a comedy guy. He's one of the original members of Uprights Citizen Brigade and plays the comfortably buffoonish Mike McLintock on "Veep." It was a weird project for him to take on, he admits, even if it was a challenge that he enjoyed.

"I always try to do stunts in comedy. So I've always felt like an action movie would be a blast," he confesses. In the film — about a tornado that rips through God's Country — he plays the tyrannical head of a documentary TV crew trying to get the perfect shot with their giant truck. "I get to drive a kick-ass vehicle. And it seemed a good arc for a character who seems like a curmudgeon to get some redemption."

Though the tornado itself was obviously fake, Walsh wasn't far from the real thing. "They had 400 mph fans blowing at us and people throwing leaves and sticks into the wind, or pelting us with golfball-sized hailstones," he recalls.

For a large stretch of the film, he and much of the cast have to hide in a sewer while the storm rages outside. "They had these towers that just ran cold water on us. You stayed wet for the rest of the day. We were in the sewers for weeks, where it was windy and dusty. Then we lived in a restaurant during the rest of the day — sort of like the Ninja Turtles."

Walsh doesn't feel that his character, while unpleasant and cruel, is a full-on monster. "I felt like I understood the guy. He's been on the road for years. I understood the stresses of his life," he says. "These crews operate like a military unit. He has to dispatch several vehicles during the storm and make sure everyone is safe, and make sure everyone's getting the shots. He has to get this because his career's on the line."

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Will their love rise from the ashes?

Theater. This play might be better if you close your eyes.

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The blocking in "Phoenix" is so obtrusive that you can practically hear it out loud. With a stark stage and few props, the two characters in this comedy noir have to kill time with nonsense "business." Presumably the director, Nicholas Jabbour, is afraid to let the text speak for itself. Headstands and twirls detract from the (mostly) smooth banter in Scott Organ's (mostly) charming script.

And there were a few other grating choices in the 90-minute show:

1 Every single set piece is flush with the stage. Putting the couch at an angle, for instance, would provide more visual interest. If it's not too much to ask, maybe add some decor or language that defines the space?

2 We rarely know where any scenes are taking place. The first interaction between Sue (Julia Stiles) and Bruce (James Wirt) might take place at a bar in Nashville, but perhaps they're at an art gallery in NYC? That would explain the giant, paint-splashed canvases hanging on the back wall. (It does not explain the fact that those paintings feature creepy black-and-whites of the actors' faces.)

3 Several exchanges (including a majority of lines in the final scene) are just time-fillers. There are six scenes at about 15 minutes each, and the playwright seems so beholden to structure that he's intent on hitting his page limit rather than trimming the fat. Edits would make way for rewrites that might allow Organ to delve deeper into what makes these characters tick.

Sue and Bruce were supposed to have a one-night stand. But she reenters his life to tell him she's pregnant. This is a big deal because doctors told Bruce that he could never have kids. Sue just wanted to make sure he knew the truth, but Bruce begs to go to the abortion clinic with her — in Phoenix, Arizona, a three-day drive from, well, wherever they are.

The biggest problem is that this play perpetuates a dangerous trope: The woman who doesn't know what she wants and the man who will keep pursuing her no matter how many times she says no. If this supposedly "romantic" set-up never manifests on stage or screen again, it will be too soon.

T. MICHELLE MURPHY
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Stiles

On her character

"Sue is a woman who's not as self-aware as she would like to think she is, and she's probably very scared of real intimacy. But she's also probably craving it. ... She's such a Debby Downer sometimes."

Why this role?

"What resonated with me was the idea of fight or flight. ... Bruce wants to fight for this relationship, and my character, Sue, wants to fly in the other direction. ... But it's not cynical, and I find that really refreshing."

Wirt

On his character

"Bruce is definitely an optimist. He's pretty comfortable with himself. He has some charm and wit. And he's an honest guy. I think those are nice qualities in anybody, especially this character."

"Phoenix," starring Julia Stiles and James Wirt, runs through Aug. 23 at the Cherry Lane Theatre (www.cherrylanetheatre.org). Visit Metro.us for more quotes from the two stars. / HARRY FELLOWS

Wirt, on why he chose this role

"We were looking at several scripts, and this was the most charming. It's a good little story, and the characters were interesting. I like my character, Bruce, and I like the relationship that he has with Sue. I thought it was a cool script."

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SAVING SEAN BEAN

"Legends" premieres at 9 p.m. on TNT. / RICHARD FOREMAN

Interview. The actor known for dramatic deaths tries to survive his latest series.

Martin Odum is a top secret FBI agent. His job is to go deep undercover in an assumed identity for months at a time with potential terrorist groups. Odum is scarily good at taking on the identities, called "legends." In fact, he's so good at becoming someone else that his bosses are worried about his mental health. So far, it sounds like exactly what you would expect from a crime show about an eccentric genius. The twist? Martin Odum might be another assumed identity — he's just unaware of it.

The mystery of Martin Odum's true identity promises plenty of plot twists for TNT's new series, "Legends," to unravel. Odum even has a wife and son and has to question how real his own family is. Stepping into the role of Odum is Sean Bean, best known to audiences for losing his head as Ned Stark on "Game of Thrones." Or they know him as Boromir, who dies in "The Fellowship of the Rings." Well, he survived "Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief" due to playing a god, but one senses a certain connection in Bean's roles. He's so well-known for not surviving his own movies that the producers of "Legends" created a hashtag to promote the show called #DontKillSeanBean.

Asked about the promotional campaign, Bean seems good-natured about the whole thing. He laughs and says, "It's quite funny. I was quite amused by it."

The show is a little more serious. Bean says he was drawn to the role partly because of showrunner Howard Gordon, who also executive produced "24," but also because, he says, "It was a very fascinating opportunity to play somebody who plays multiple personalities and creates the characters for himself in order to do the job that he does."

The fact that Odum's true identity is a mystery is heightened by the degree to which the character is isolated. Bean calls him "a very lonely man who kind of throws himself into

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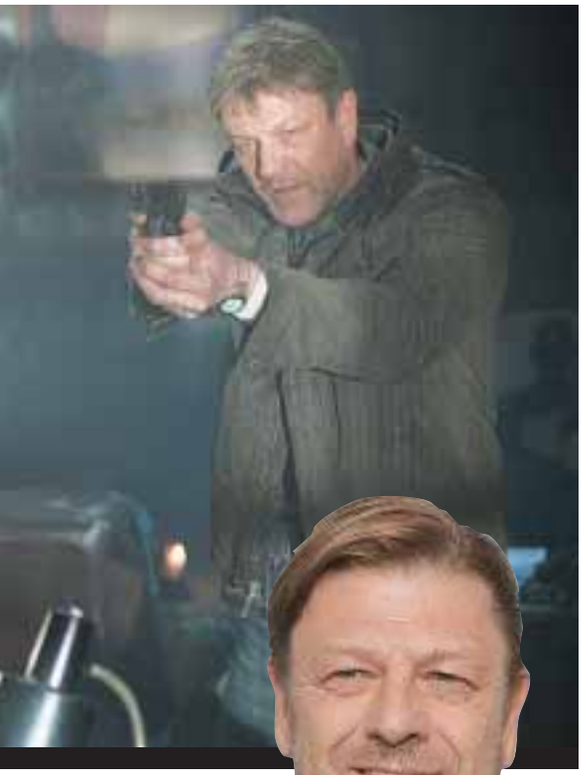

characters, like an addiction, to find some relief from his everyday life. He's happier being someone else."

Survival skills

Not dead yet

"Legends," at least in the early episodes, shows a willingness to kill off its characters, even ones viewers think might be safe. For now, though, it seems like Bean will survive, because he's the lead on the show. Of course, it's that kind of thinking that took so many viewers by surprise on "Game of Thrones," but since the producers are aiming to keep him alive, he might be safe. "I'm very flattered that people want me to stick around a little longer," says Bean. Just to be on the safe side, though, all the people out there running "Save Sean Bean" Tumblrs, Twitter feeds and blogs, stay vigilant! You never know what's going to get him this time.

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TV watch list

DRAMA

'Mistresses'

April finally learns who her stalker is. Seems like those ladies are always being stalked by someone, doesn't it? **10 P.M., ABC**

REALITY

'Bachelor in Paradise'

The contestants are rocked to their core by the discovery that a candidate who was kicked off was involved with a crew member. Who would have guessed that someone would behave in such a scandalous manner on this show? **8 P.M., ABC**

COMEDY

'Whose Line Is It Anyway?'

"Top Chef" host Padma Lakshmi stops by to check on the proceedings of the relaunched improv comedy show. **8 P.M., CW**

MOVIE

'Taken'

Go back to where it all began and see the first time someone took something important from Liam Neeson, only to discover that he's a not-so-gentle giant. And don't worry: "Taken 3" is already on the horizon. **10 P.M., FXM**

LISA WEIDENFELD

The women of "Mistresses" have to support each other through some really weird problems. / ABC, RON BATZDORFF

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Models should have a voice, says Esman.
CLASSISINTERNAL.COM

Q&A
SONYA ESMAN: SOCIAL MEDIA CELEBRITY

In an age where every millennial with a smartphone and Instagram account is calling themselves a fashion blogger, it can be difficult to separate the pretenders from the professionals. But model Sonya Esman is no imposter. For a start, Esman, who grew up in Toronto, Canada, has been vlogging since what the fashionista calls the "beginning" (2009). She has just shy of 100,000 Twitter followers and over 400,000 Instagram fans. Plus, the Russian-born YouTuber has starred in some movies and television shows. Oh, and she's only 19 years old. The girl behind the blog ClassIsInternal.com (which, by the way, is available in Russian and English) explains why blogging is now a part of the cultural landscape and what it's like being a social media celebrity.

Visit ClassIsInternal.com.

Quoted

"I've never been told to lose weight or not to dye my hair or get a tattoo. I'm respectful and grateful for that."
Esman

The blogging world is a saturated market. What sets you apart from the rest of the blogger community?
I started on YouTube, which I think is what makes it so unique. I started as an acting "YouTuber" because I didn't want to just be another fashion blogger, so I made videos about how to be an actor. The goal of my videos is not to just show people my outfit, or show people how cool I am or where I'm travel-

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Esman wants to inspire you with her YouTube videos. / CLASSISINTERNAL.COM

ing, it's to inspire people.

Did you initially have dreams of being an actress?
I did, yes. I always thought that acting was the one thing that I was meant to do on this Earth.

So how's that side of your career progressing?
I mean, I kind of realized that I don't have a talent for it. If someone gave me the opportunity, I would do it, but I just don't want to audition. I'm over it.

It sounds like you've had a bad experience. What happened?
I had an audition for "Degrassi," which is one of the biggest shows in Toronto. I studied for this script for weeks. But when it came to the audition, my mind blanked and I couldn't speak. I was standing there for a minute, paralyzed. And I was like, "I'm never doing this again ever."

Have you tried acting lessons?
Oh yeah, my mom paid $7,000 for acting classes. She hates me. She's never going to forgive me.

Generation Y seems to be the age of the model/actress/DJ. Is it essential that models have a few jobs on the side?
Yes, it's incredibly important because you'll go insane if you only have modeling to depend on. It's because people will tell you anything like, "You're too this way or that way." So if you don't have something to lean back on and something that you've studied or another passion, you're going to go insane. It's like being in love with somebody and then them being like, "I don't want you anymore." I mean who are you, if you've made that your life?

Esman's world

- She's starred in "Suits," "Hemlock Grove" and "Camp Rock 2."
- She has a pet parrot called Pasha.
- She's Skype's Global Fashion Ambassador.
- She's the most popular in Russia, Ukraine and the U.S.

On scammers in the modeling industry

"You meet a lot of people who are like, 'We're going to make you a star.' And it's like, 'No, please don't. Just let me work hard.'"
Esman

Does the fact that you're a blogging personality give you a certain autonomy? Are your modeling agencies happy for you to promote your own personality?
Of course. They encourage me to be independent. I think they understand that because I'm a blogger. I've never been told to lose weight or not to dye my hair or not to get a tattoo. I'm respectful and grateful for that.

There was a time when models like Kate Moss were encouraged to be seen and not heard. Do you not think that the fact that they were less accessible added to their exclusivity?
Maybe. But I feel like it's important for models to have a voice, so they can shed some light on the industry. Now they can speak out and fight for things.

Nowadays, bloggers sit side-by-side with the biggest fashion editors in the world. Why is a blogger's opinion as valid as, say, someone from Vogue?
I remember four years ago, I would not even watch a fashion show because it seemed so unattainable and not for me. But now with bloggers showing the new collections, I feel like everyone has become a part of the fashion industry by following social media. It gives so much social media press and new press to a younger audience — it's a new culture.

Are people starting to recognize you in public?
Yes! It's insane. I honestly feel like I'm never alone. Yesterday, on the subway, this girl was like, "Oh my God, you're Sonya!" If I go to the really touristy places, I have people running up to me and I'm like, "What's your name? Let's talk, we don't have to rush into a selfie — come on."

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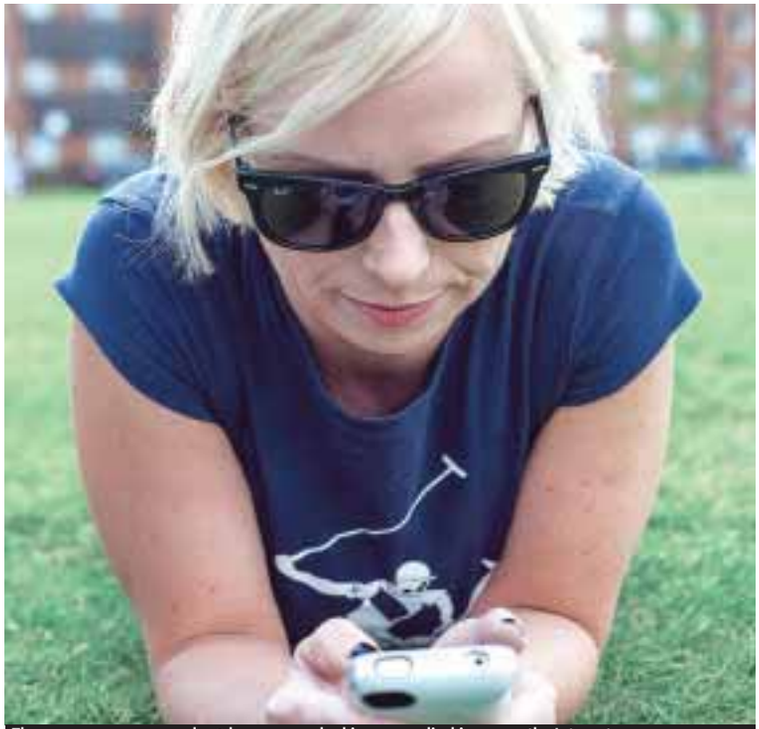
Illness or anxiety

Getting help

If you think you have an unreasonable fixation with self-diagnosis via the Web, Altstein advises seeking help. "If a patient comes to me and is clicking endlessly on the Internet looking at illnesses, then this is a new anxiety disorder, probably affecting a person functioning normally. We have to manage it and address concerns. I advise a combination of SSRI [anti-anxiety] meds to manage the condition in conjunction with psychotherapy to find the underlying reason why they are so afraid of illness or obsessed with being sick."



The average person spends 52 hours a year looking up medical issues on the Internet. / GETTY IMAGES

Quoted

"You have to look carefully at who's writing the advice. If you just put a symptom into a search engine, then all sorts of non-medical sites or blogs come up." Dr. Sam Altstein, medical director of Beth Israel Medical Group

Googling yourself sick

Cyberchondria. The Internet can be a health resource — or a problem.

At some point, maybe we all suffer a little bit of what's been dubbed "cyberchondria." After all, who hasn't looked up a pain, rash or other symptom on the Internet to self-diagnose? But a recent study estimated that the average American adult spends an astounding 52 hours a year looking up medical issues.

According to Dr. Sam Altstein, medical director of Beth Israel Medical Group, that statistic isn't surprising. "I see a lot of folks who've been looking up symptoms on the Internet. At least once a day, someone comes in and has Googled a symptom and in seconds they're told they have HIV or cancer or are about to die. It's mostly very, very wrong."

Someone who is spending an inordinate amount of time looking up symptoms on the Internet might have hypochondria — excessive worrying about illness, which in itself is a sickness.

"That's a very real condition, and the Internet feeds on that," says Altstein. "We have to hear these patients out and guide them, but it's hard to combat phobias. [To them,] an anecdote is more powerful than a study with real evidence, or even a real diagnosis."

Hypochondriac or not, anxiety caused by worrying about possible illness adds stress to both the individual and the healthcare system.

"It impacts the patient's life if they're taking time off work and spending time on the Internet doing this," says Altstein. "It drives up costs with extraneous tests. We can't blow off someone who comes in with a health concern. We need to at least do a physical exam or blood tests. They might get X-rays, which give unnecessary radiation."

Researching symptoms or illnesses on the Internet can sometimes help, however — especially for minor issues that can be treated easily at home, but only if the information is reliable.

"You have to look carefully at who's writing the advice," Altstein says. "If you just put a symptom into a search engine, then all sorts of non-medical sites or blogs come up. These probably won't have any research behind them. Choose medical sites like the Mayo Clinic's and WebMD, which have a better perspective."

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HOW TO NETWORK DURING SUMMER SOCIAL SITUATIONS

Long summer days inspire relaxation; there's less pressure to attend professional conferences and local chapter events in the spirit of networking. Just because more formal opportunities to make new contacts are pretty limited during the hotter months doesn't mean you can't get your networking game on in other ways. Sure, the game has changed somewhat, but the rules haven't. Here are some tips:

Have your elevator pitch at the ready

You never want to sound canned, but you should always be ready to succinctly pitch yourself. It's not so much the words but how you say them. What's your energy level like? What's the other person's body language like in reaction to your summary? Are they bored or intrigued?

Look put together

Even when you're at the beach, you can still pull it off. Keep it simple and consistent: Avoid dressing sloppily, keep the torn clothing or wrinkled outfits where they belong— on the ironing board. You may be sporting flip-flops instead of heels, but your overall presentation should still be a positive one. Remember, your new contacts are in the same situation and in casual gear too, so it's completely normal to have a conversation that heats up into specific industry lingo. Give yourself a break if it is scorching out, though.

Bring your business cards

Yes, even if you simply go outside to walk your dog at 6 a.m., you never know who you may meet. The summer brings a carefree energy to it, but that doesn't mean to ditch the notion of exchanging valuable contact information to follow up.

Enjoy the energy

Revel in the splendor of the season, enjoy not being in a stodgy conference room wearing a conservative suit. Even if you're not pounding the pavement for a new job, you never know where a new conversation may lead. So, the next time you're on the Hampton Jitney, take a break from that smartphone and meet some new people.

Inside HR

VICKI SALEMI

Vicki Salemi is a career and human resources expert and consultant with 16-plus years of hands-on management experience. She's a public speaker, coach, the author of "Big Career in the Big City" and on-air host of "Score That Job."

Tip

Be yourself

Whether you're in an intramural softball league or waiting for court time at the Central Park Tennis Center, there are endless opportunities to strike up a conversation. Simply be yourself! Focus on why you're there and talk about the game or venue as an icebreaker. Normally you would probably approach someone at a mixer asking how they know the host or what they do for a living, so in this case you can keep things lax and start by asking about their game and their team, and then as an afterthought toss in, "Oh, by the way, what do you do for a living?" Get to know people as people first and their occupation second and introduce yourself in this spirit, too. It's more fun that way.

Take advantage of lazy summer afternoons and get to know your colleagues. / DIGITAL VISION

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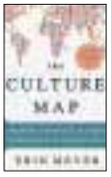
5 Ways to build better rapport with colleagues overseas

Learn how to avoid cultural conflicts with international business partners. **LAKSHMI GANDHI**

Because of the increased globalization of the business world, it's not unusual for many office workers to have colleagues who live in far-flung places around the world.

But constantly video-conferencing and emailing with people you may never meet in person has its challenges, especially if you know nothing about the cultural mores of your new colleagues. In her new book, "The Culture Map: Breaking Through the Invisible Boundaries of Global Business," author and business professor Erin Meyer provides readers with a blueprint for navigating the sometimes-rocky road of cross-cultural business relations.



"What I say to my MBA students is that if you want to be successful in the future, you have to develop the skills to understand and ask the question: 'How do I motivate my employees in different parts of the world?'" says Meyer.

Uncertain about how you can develop a successful partnership with a team of software engineers in India or a group of accountants in Sweden? Meyer says that a good manager can make things run smoothly despite been oceans away.

1 Take the time to build a personal relationship

"The United States is the most task-oriented culture in the world," says Meyer. "The No. 1 mistake that Americans make when they're trying to influence people in other parts of the world is that they don't realize that other countries are more relationship-oriented than we are."

Meyer says that American managers complain to her that they'll send an email to their overseas colleagues with a message that says "Do this please" — and then they get angry and frustrated when they receive no response. "But [the managers] hadn't spent some time building a little bit of a personal connection with [the recipient], and you can't really do that over email," points out Meyer.

2 Know when to call and when to email

"If you can talk over the phone in order to build up that initial connection before you move to email, that's always better," says Meyer. "And even better than that is if you can do Skype, because once people have seen your face, then you can use that opportunity to get to know them a little bit and then you can move to more task-oriented media like email."

3 Try to break the ice

Sometimes it's not possible to ever meet your co-workers face-to-face, but that doesn't mean you can't make a connection. Meyer shares a story of how one manager broke the ice with his team of young Indian programmers by sending them YouTube videos of the latest pop songs, saying, "I love this song, this is what I love about it, it's really hot in India right now — what do you think?" explains Meyer.

4 Acknowledge your mistakes

Unintentionally making an offensive remark happens, but there are ways to fix the damage. It is key to acknowledge your clumsiness and be open to change. Meyer says one of the managers she talked to won his team over with honesty. "It just didn't occur to us that people in other parts of the world might be more focused on giving a softer relationship approach to things," he says.

5 Don't be afraid to ask about cultural differences

Sometimes the best way to avoid a cultural conflict is to simply talk to a trusted colleague about what you should do. "People love to talk about cultural differences, as long as you make it sound like you think the other culture is positive and you talk your own culture in a humble way," says Meyer.

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Horoscope

♌ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22. Don't lag when it comes to important paperwork. You will find shortcuts as well as interesting options that will be beneficial.

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22. Emotionally charged issues will develop if you are overly sensitive to what others say. Seek an objective opinion from someone you trust.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22. It's impossible to reach a decision if uncertainty prevails. Don't be coerced by anyone who puts pressure on you.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21. You will gain satisfaction if you complete unfinished business. Enlist help from people who have the means.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21. Travel will give you insight into a dilemma. A financial investment isn't likely to turn in your favor. You can make headway if you keep plans a secret.

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan. 20. Be assertive. You can get what you want if you are persistent. You need to make your voice heard if you wish to win support.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb. 18. Criticism will cause you to doubt your abilities. Someone with an ulterior motive will try to prevent you from getting ahead.

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20. Money is in the picture. A contract, gift, settlement or financial opportunity is present. Use this chance to make an move.

♈ Aries | March 21-April 20. You may end up as a mediator during a family disagreement. Be diplomatic and try to find a solution that everyone can be happy with.

♉ Taurus | April 21-May 21. Someone is likely to disappoint you. Present your plans to make progress. Help will arrive from an unexpected source.

♊ Gemini | May 22-June 20. Maintain focus, or you could be sidelined by someone trying to manipulate you. Highlight your strong points.

♋ Cancer | June 21-July 22. You will face some delays and frustrations. Don't give in; an alternative route will get you where you want to go. It's the journey that counts. BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Sudoku: Easy and hard

5		2		4		9		
					6	2		
					5	3		1
9			4		7		5	2
7								6
4	1		2		9			7
2		9	6					
		4	1					
		8		9		7		4

1			6			2		5
2		5			9			6
	7			2	5		9	
				7				
	6	3				1	8	
				6				
	3		2	9			5	
7			1			6		9
5		9			6			3

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Letters

No good choices in eliminating terrorists

Reading letters about the recent war in the Middle East, I am reminded that our country was also pulled into war by a sneak attack. Japan bombed our people and our military hardware at Pearl Harbor in 1941 and we, in turn, ended that war by dropping atom bombs on two densely populated cities. It wasn't that we wanted to kill civilians. It was a decision forced onto us. Every scrap of information I see tells the same story about Israel. In the future, to avoid bringing death to its subjects, Hamas would do well to not start wars to begin with.
PAUL SIMONS, VIA EMAIL

Israel can't justify its actions

Why is Israel trying so hard to justify overreacting to the situation? Hamas has fired 1,000 rockets and there is one Israeli citizen injured/dead. Meanwhile, Israel has killed or murdered an innocent child at least once per day on average. And the most shocking is that the West is supporting this. I am just a truck driver, but it seems to me Israel is breeding terrorists by killing random innocents without regard to justice.
WILLIAM GORE JR., VIA EMAIL

letters@metro.us

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Crossword

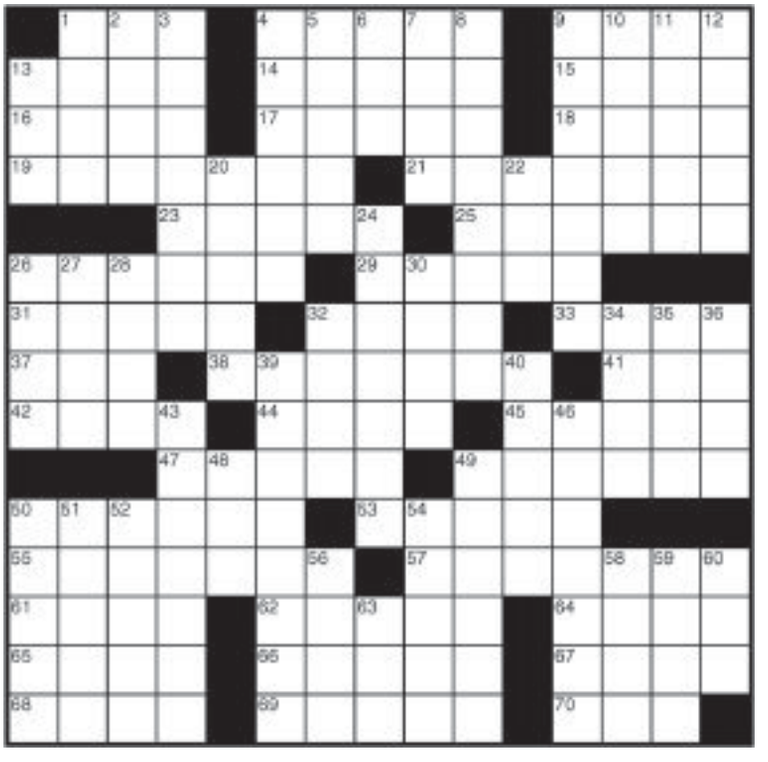
Across

1 Family MDs
4 Bucks
9 Pack it in
13 Paris cop
14 NAFTA opponent
15 "Oops!" (hyph.)
16 Moose or elk
17 Tour de France competitor
18 Garage contents
19 Type of dancing
21 Mountain chains
23 Should
25 Put into words
26 Stoops
29 Licorice herb
31 Cut some slack
32 Subatomic particle
33 Centipede feature
37 Mexican Mrs.
38 In the minority?
41 Plop down
42 Calligraphy fluids
44 Calculator work
45 Bug out
47 Frat quarters
49 Anagram for minute
50 Open, as a sleeping bag
53 Recital pieces
55 — riche
57 Gumshoes
61 Kind of straits
62 Foot the bill
64 Thunder
65 Eurasian range
66 Oklahoma tribe
67 Goofs up
68 Underwater shockers
69 Had status
70 Pentagon grp.

Down

1 Unbridled delight
2 Quay
3 Cratchits' benefactor
4 Bits of holly
5 Instruct
6 Equator segment
7 Departs
8 Painting a zebra
9 Spat
10 Lieutenant under Kirk
11 Specks
12 Them there
13 Rx monitor
20 Cake-pan type
22 Grunts of surprise
24 Went bad, as meat
26 He loved Lucy
27 Hold down a job
28 Ms. Dinesen
30 Webster or Beery
32 Pod contents
34 Hairy twin
35 Hand over
36 Dele's undoing
39 Mimic
40 Privileged few
43 Clears snow
46 Made certain
48 Flamenco shout
49 Thawed
50 Exaggerated
51 Bete —
52 Not built-up
54 Common practice
56 Bear in the sky
58 Riding-mower brand
59 — Rock Cafe
60 Almost-grads
63 Don the feedbag

Weekend's answer



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3 SPORTS

Back-to-back

McIlroy wins final major

Rory McIlroy's month of dominance continued Sunday as he won the final major of the season at the PGA Championship. McIlroy became the first person to win back-to-back majors since Padraig Harrington in 2008. McIlroy shot a 3-under-68 on Sunday to finish at minus-16, one stroke clear of Phil Mickelson, who birdied the 18th hole. Henrik Stenson and Rickie Fowler finished tied for third.

3 Things learned about the Giants

NFL. The Giants are still struggling to pass, but a few players look good.

The Giants returned home to MetLife Stadium after opening their preseason schedule in Canton, Ohio, in order to host the Steelers on Saturday night.

The Giants kept their first-team offense in the entire first quarter and into the second, giving Eli Manning four drives to try to work out some kinks in the new system. The results were questionable, at best. Metro looks at what else we learned from the second preseason game.

MARK OSBORNE
@MetroNYSports
mark.osborne@metro.us

1 Still running

The running game still appears to be light years ahead of the passing game in Ben McAdoo's new offense. It was Andre Williams who tore up the Bills last week, while free agent Rashad Jennings did the duty against Pittsburgh. Jennings busted off a 73-yard touchdown run on the first play of the team's second series.

The Giants' top receivers were quiet again. Mario Manningham and Victor Cruz had zero catches, while Rueben Randle had just one.

VICTOR CRUZ NOT ONLY HAS NO CATCHES ALL PRESEASON, HE HASN'T EVEN BEEN TARGETED.

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

2 Boy meets world

Rookie undrafted receiver Corey Washington had his second straight impressive game. When he won a jump ball and took it into the end zone for a 70-yard touchdown last week, it was just a nice play by a guy very unlikely to make the roster. But when he makes another nice play on a jump ball — as he did on a goal-line toss against the Steelers — you have to take notice. Maybe he could make this roster after all. While Marcus Harris, last week's fellow wideout surprise, crashed back to earth with zero catches on two targets, Washington pulled a repeat performance.

The 6-foot-4 wide receiver is giving the Giants a dimension no one else provides. If the Giants aren't going to have a big-bodied tight end for red-zone catches — and they don't appear to have a receiving tight end period — Washington might be more than just a spare part for the practice squad.

PRESTON PARKER HUGS COREY WASHINGTON AFTER HIS SECOND TOUCHDOWN THIS PRESEASON.

3 New power

The secondary continues to battle the new emphasis on illegal contact, but Prince Amukamara looked impressive in his time on the field. With Terrell Thomas gone, Amukamara has no safety net behind him. Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie will be the top corner, but few teams don't have two threats at wideout.

The fourth-year cornerback appears ready to finally make the next step in his career after missing much of last season. He did a nice job fighting off a block on a third down and tackling LeVeon Bell on a screen pass to force a punt on fourth and short on Pittsburgh's second series. Amukamara, who said he prides himself on his physical play, ended up with four tackles.

AMUKAMARA LOOKED STRONG SATURDAY NIGHT.

Dropping like flies

DEE MILLINER
GETTY IMAGES

Milliner leaves Jets practice, McDougle out for year

The Jets secondary issues just got a lot more pressing.

Just a few days after Dimitri Patterson looked terribly overmatched in the preseason opener, both Dee Milliner and Dexter McDougle went down with injuries in Sunday's practice.

McDougle, the team's third-round pick out of Maryland, tore his left ACL and will miss the rest of the season, according to the team. The rookie missed most of his last year in college with a dislocated shoulder and fractured shoulder blade.

Head coach Rex Ryan did not know the severity of Milliner's injury, but the second-year cornerback came down awkwardly on his left ankle going up for a ball against receiver Quincy Enunwa. He had to be helped off the field and couldn't put any weight on the leg. He was also scheduled for an MRI.

Milliner had a strong game against the Colts on Thursday with two pass breakups. METRO

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MLB. Mejia blows win for Mets, Yankee bats quiet against Tribe

Jenrry Mejia cost the Mets their chance at a third straight win over the rival Phillies as he melted down in the ninth inning.

The closer came in with a 6-5 lead in the ninth and allowed a leadoff double to Cody Asche and a game-tying single to Marlon Byrd. He got Ben Revere and Jimmy Rollins out. But the former Met stole second and was driven in by Ryan Howard to give Philadelphia the walkoff win.

The two teams close out the series Monday (1:05 p.m., SNY).

By the numbers

21

Lucas Duda hit his team-leading 21st home run in the Mets loss. He is tied for fourth in the NL.

Indians 4, Yankees 1
Carlos Carrasco broke a streak of 17 straight starts without a win for the Indians as he went five shutout innings against the Yankees.

Hiroki Kuroda (7-8) couldn't make it out of the fifth inning. Jason Kipnis did most of the damage for the Indians, starting the game with a leadoff single. He finished 3-for-5 with three runs. METRO

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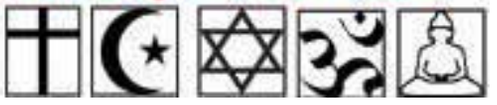

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